Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092396
ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 L-03 /033 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:PSOLMSSEN:MAJ
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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
CU/ARTS-PEWHEELER
----------251601Z 109127 /43
R 251356Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 092396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF ANCIENT ART FROM SUDAN

REF: KHARTOUM 1222

1. MICHAEL BOTWINICK, DIRECTOR OF BROOKLYN MUSEUM, ARRIVING APRIL 27 FROM CAIRO TO PURSUE WITH SUDANESE AUTHORITIES QUESTION OF LOANS FOR SUBJECT EXHIBITION. WILL REMAIN UNTIL MAY 8, MAKING OWN HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS.

2. BOTWINICK WILL CONTACT EMB. TO DISCUSS WHAT SORT OF OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF LOAN REQUEST IS REQUIRED AND POSSIBLE. IN GENERAL TERMS, USG CANNOT GUARANTEE SAFE RETURN OF OBJECTS, SINCE THEY WILL NOT BE IN USG HANDS. HOWEVER, IF MUSEUM'S APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL INDEMNITY IS APPROVED, AS SEEMS LIKELY, USG WILL IN EFFECT BE INSURER OF EXHIBIT AND THUS WILL OBVIOUSLY BEND EVERY
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EFFORT TO SEE OBJECTS RETURNED SAFELY. USG CAN ALSO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT OBJECTS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL SEIZURE WHILE IN U.S. (FOR EXAMPLE, BY SOMEONE HOLDING LEGAL JUDGMENT AGAINST GOS). BEYOND THIS, USG CAN AGREE TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WHO (TOGETHER WITH MUSEUMS CONCERNED) WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY.

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3. TUTANKHAMUN AGREEMENT CONTAINED ASSURANCES ALONG LINES OF ABOVE, BUT ALL DETAILS CONCERNING EXHIBITION WERE LEFT TO SEPARATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. MUSEUMS AND CAIRO MUSEUM. HOWEVER, FULL FLEDGED AGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND LENDING COUNTRY, AS IN CASE OF TUT SHOW, IS QUITE UNUSUAL AND WOULD NOT SEEM NECESSARY IN CASE WHERE MUSEUM IS NOT SEEKING ENTIRE EXHIBITION FOR LONG U.S. RUN (AS WAS CASE WITH TUT), BUT RATHER LOANS OF SOME PIECES TO COMPLETE EXHIBITION DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

4. HOPEFULLY, ONCE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE EXPLAINED, SUDANESE AUTHORITIES WOULD SETTLE FOR NOTE FROM EMB. STATING THAT USG FAVORS EXHIBITION AS BEING IN INTEREST OF GOOD RELATIONS AND FURTHERANCE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, AND REQUESTING COOPERATION OF GOS. IF FURTHER ASSURANCES ARE REQUIRED, LANGUAGE SHOULD BE CLEARED WITH DEPARTMENT (CU/ARTS).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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